

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

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R 101007Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 818

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONGEN MUNICH

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 17612

USIA FOR IEU, IBS; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; VOA/MUNICH;

USIS/BONN; P&C/LENINGRAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: VOA "INDEPENDENCE" RIDICULED

1. THE NOVEMBER 4 ISSUE OF ZA RUBEZHOM REPORTS THAT VOA LIKES TO BOAST ABOUT ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THAT LAST YEAR VOA CLAIMED IT HAD BEEN GRANTED "LEGAL RIGHTS" TO RESIST GOVERNMENT PRESSURE. "THIS MEANT, CLAIMED THE VOA, THAT THE RADIO CEASED TO BE AN ORGAN OF PROPAGANDA" AND EMERGED AS AN "INDEPENDENT ENTITY." "THE MYTH OF VOA INDEPENDENCE," WRITES ZA RUBEZHOM, "HAS NOT LIVED LONG."

2. ACCORDING TO ZA RUBEZHOM, A "WASHINGTON POST" STORY SAID THAT US AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL MALCOLM TOON "FORBADE THE VOA CORRESPONDENT IN TEL AVIV FROM HAVING ANY CONTACT WITH ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE PLO." ACCORDING TO ZA RUBEZHOM, TOON IS "A PRAGMATIC MAN" WITHOUT THE "PROPAGANDISTIC NEEDS" OF THE VOA, WHO OPENLY STATED THAT "VOA PEOPLE ARE OFFICIALS OF THE US GOVERNMENT." AND BERNARD KAMENSKY, THE VOA NEWS SECTION CHIEF, IS UNCLASSIFIED

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QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ALL OVER

THE WORLD MANIPULATE THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION."

3. ZA RUBEZHOM CONCLUDES THAT EVEN THOUGH THE LABEL OF "OFFICIAL RADIO" HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE VOA, IN PRACTICE THE RADIO "REMAINS WASHINGTON'S MOUTHPIECE AND KEEPS MAKING PROPAGANDA." ((5068: FULL TEXT SENT UNDER SEPARATE COVER.)

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Disposition Event:
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